GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3912
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
VISIT OF ARMY CHIEF TO FRANCE
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Chief has visited France during December, 1999 to explore the possibility of acquiring varied military hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Army Chief also visited Poland and other European countries; and

(d) if so, the details of agreements signed, if any, for purchase of defence material from these countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): At the invitation of the Chiefs of General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces,the Czech Armed Forces and Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces,our Chief of the Army Staff, General V.P. Malik, undertook goodwill visits to Poland during May 11-15, 1999, the Czech Republic during May 16-19, 1999 and to France during December 6-10, 1999.

The visits of Service Chiefs to foreign countries at the invitation of their counterparts are undertaken primarily to generate goodwill with friendly foreign countries in the context of our overall national defence policy.

During the visits to the above countries, no agreement was signed by the Chief of the Army Staff.